



Lab's Employee Giving Campaign underway

November 2, 2015



Los Alamos National Laboratory's Employee Giving Campaign is currently underway through November 20 and is one of the Laboratory's key ways for its workforce to directly help address important needs in northern New Mexico's communities.

"Laboratory employees have always been very generous in their support of our annual Employee Giving Campaign," said Kathy Keith, director of the Community Programs Office. "When employees pledge to the campaign they are demonstrating their care and concern for the communities and eligible nonprofit agencies in northern New Mexico and beyond."

Additional giving campaigns, including the Laboratory's annual Holiday Gift Drive, are beginning to kick into gear as well.

The Pueblo of Pojoaque Boys & Girls Club, which serves about 350 young people a year, is a regular campaign recipient.

Pojoaque

Today's Pueblo of Pojoaque Boys & Girls Club (PPBGC) began as a youth center in the pueblo but became a member of the [Boys & Girls Clubs of America](#) in the mid-1990s under the leadership of then Pojoaque Lt. Gov. George Rivera.

"Lt. Gov. Rivera, who later became the pueblo's governor, had participated in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Fe/Del Norte as a young boy and teenager," said PPBGC executive director Donald (Don) Christy, "and he was so impressed by his experience that he wanted the same type of programs and opportunities for the valley kids as well."

Christy also had been involved in the Santa Fe club, but as a volunteer while working full-time as a Santa Fe police officer.

"I took over the Pueblo of Pojoaque Boys & Girls Club in 2000," Christy recalled. "It's a remarkable place for young people to be mentored by caring adults."

Tamara Johnson

Tamara Johnson joined the Pueblo of Pojoaque Boys & Girls Club when she was nine years old and by age 16 started to be an employee for the club as well.

"I learned a tremendous amount from the PPBGC," Johnson explained, "and was able to take advantage of unbelievable opportunities."

One of the opportunities that came Johnson's way was being selected as the 2010 national ambassador for a nationwide financial literacy program and to ring the New York Stock Exchange's closing bell as part of her duties.

"I was lucky that the PPBGC offered the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 'Money Matters: Make it Count' program, which taught me a lot about how to make smart money decisions," Johnson said. "I was even luckier when the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Charles Schwab Foundation named me national ambassador for the initiative. I traveled all over the country to spread the word about why getting grounded in the basics of money management is crucial to lifelong success."

Johnson also was lucky to have the Boys & Girls Clubs of America name her Youth of the Year, the highest honor bestowed on a Boys & Girls Club member. The honor subsequently led to her earning a four-year, full-tuition scholarship from the club and from Marquette University, located in Milwaukee.

Five years later, Johnson now is a second-year law student at Marquette.

To learn more about the PPBGC, go to the [Pueblo of Pojoaque Boys & Girls Club website](#).

Community Connections features news and opportunities that grow out of the Laboratory's Good Neighbor Pledge: "To partner with our neighbors on strengthening math and science learning, diversifying the economy and expanding community giving in northern New Mexico."

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